



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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November 16, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Lincoln Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On November 16, 2010, a Lincoln resident was sentenced to nine years, (108 months), in prison for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Lincoln between September of 2007 and May of 2010. Information provided to law enforcement indicated that Jesus Ortiz Menchaca was responsible for the distribution of at least three pounds of methamphetamine mixture and at least 18 ounces of actual or pure methamphetamine during that time-period. During the execution of a search warrant at Ortiz Menchaca's Lincoln apartment on May 19, 2010, officers found over six ounces of methamphetamine along with a small amount of cocaine, prescription drugs, and \$1,644 in cash. In a garage rented by Ortiz Menchaca, officers found approximately one pound of nearly pure methamphetamine hidden inside a power washer.

Ortiz Menchaca was ordered to serve five years on supervised release after completion of the prison term. It is likely that he will be deported to Mexico upon completion of the prison term. He was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment, and the \$1,644 cash was forfeited to the United States.

Name of Defendant: Jesus Alfredo Ortiz Menchaca

AKA:

Age: 27

City of residence: Lincoln

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of

methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The possible penalty is not less than ten years nor more than life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than five years. There is also a \$100 special assessment. It was also alleged that \$1,644 cash seized from Ortiz Menchaca was used or was intended to be used in furtherance of the charged drug conspiracy or represented proceeds of that conspiracy. The possible penalty for the forfeiture allegation is forfeiture of \$1,644 cash to the United States.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln

Location of Arrest: Lincoln

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Ortiz Menchaca was held responsible for the distribution of at least 1.5 kilograms (approximately three pounds) but less than 5 kilograms (approximately 11 pounds) of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, and at least 500 grams (approximately 18 ounces) but less than 1.5 kilograms of actual or pure methamphetamine. Testing indicated that the 445.42 grams (approximately one pound) of methamphetamine found in the power washer in the garage rented by Ortiz Menchaca was approximately 95% pure.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: none

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: From on or about September 1, 2007, to on or about May 19, 2010

Federal Arrest Date: May 21, 2010

Date Complaint Issued: May 21, 2010

Indictment Returned Date: June 23, 2010

Initial Appearance Date: May 24, 2010 on complaint, June 29, 2010 on indictment

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Pled guilty on August 19, 2010

Sentencing Date: November 16, 2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: none

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable Cheryl R. Zwart

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: May 19, 2010 (Ortiz Menchaca was arrested on May 19, 2010, on a related state charge which was dismissed after the federal indictment was returned.)

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SEF